PCT

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION International Bureau



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 5:

H04N 7/173

(11) International Publication Number:

WO 93/22877

(43) International Publication Date:

11 November 1993 (11.11.93)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US93/04473

A2

(22) International Filing Date:

3 May 1993 (03.05.93)

(30) Priority data:

07/877,325

1 May 1992 (01.05.92)

US

(71) Applicant: ICTV INC. [US/US]; 280 Martin Avenue, Santa Clara, CA 95050 (US).

(72) Inventors: HOARTY, W., Leo; 444 Saratoga Avenue, #5D, Santa Clara, CA 95050 (US). SOSKE, Joshua; P.O. Box 2345, Sunnyvale, CA 94087 (US). LAUDER, Gary, M.; 2 East 67th Street, New York, NY 10021 (US). SNELL, Stephen, C.; 6312 Baseline Drive, Aptos, CA 95003 (US). FISHER, Delmer, D.; 503 Simas Drive, Milpitas, CA 95035 (US). NORTH, John; 736 Mountain View Avenue, Mountain View, CA 94041 (US).

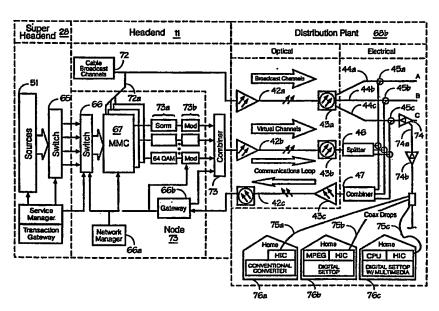
(74) Agents: SUNSTEIN, Bruce, D. et al.; Bromberg & Sunstein, 10 West Street, Boston, MA 02111 (US).

(81) Designated States: JP, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).

Published

Without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report.

(54) Title: INTERACTIVE HOME INFORMATION SYSTEM



(57) Abstract

A system in some embodiments achieves distribution of conventional cable services in traditional manners while providing interactive television information services on a demand basis using a switching arrangement, and it does so while permitting both types of service to be accessed, as in the past, by the single action of channel selection. In a preferred embodiment, an interactive television information system, providing interactive cable television service when coupled to a cable television system, has (i) an information source available at a headend (11) for supplying a plurality of information services and (ii) an information service distribution (68b) network for delivering the information services to subscriber televisions. Various architectures are provided.